

gay community news

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The Gay Weekly

35¢

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to Chappette, P. 8**

Gayway On Its Way Out? P. 1

It's Craig Russell & He's



BU President Appears to Take Active Role

Boston Gay Radio Show May Be Scrapped

By Neil Miller

BOSTON — WBUR-FM's highly respected weekly radio program "Gay Way" is in danger of being scrapped altogether or, at best, having its co-hosts replaced by "neutral" and "objective" staff in an apparent effort by the Boston University administration to tighten its grip over the university-owned station's programming. Sources at WBUR have reported that the station, under heavy pressure from Boston University President John Silber, has already decided to drop the show but has delayed making the announcement because of fear of widespread criticism.

Strong hints that the station was planning to drop or drastically revamp "Gay Way" and other community-oriented programs have come during "ascertainment" meetings, which the station has been holding under Federal Communications Commission guidelines. At such a meeting on August 8 — with both senior staff and representatives of the communities affected by the programming present — Blaine Littell, a Boston University journalism professor whom President Silber has named as a "consultant" to the station, told those present that "the people who listen to WBUR are not the same people who do the shows or whom the shows are aimed at." Staff people for many of the programs have "gotten stale," Littell asserted, and he indicated pointedly that it was time to replace them with more "objective" journalists. Almost all the community representatives at the meeting urged that the programming not be



'Gay Way' co-host Steve Blevins (left)

'Gay Way' co-host Ann Maguire (center)

Boston University President John Silber (right)

significantly altered. Ann Maguire (who along with Steve Blevins co-hosts "Gay Way"), Rep. Elaine Noble, and Jill Ruggi of the Homophile Community Health Service represented the gay community at the meeting.

Citing a Silber memo that called Boston University a haven for advocates of "drugs, homosexuality, and quack psychology," *The Real Paper*, the Boston alternative weekly, charged that Silber was demanding a "counter-revolution" at the progressive radio station. The newspaper claimed that Silber wants WBUR to "appeal to a wider audience" — particularly the university's presumably well-heeled but conservative alumni. According to the memo, Silber wants WBUR to

emphasize "the American way of life, family, and religion." The *Real Paper* account noted that the station had already "eliminated" or revamped several shows and observed that "still hanging on is 'Gay Way,' but staffers fear it's next to go."

Ann Maguire, co-host of the show which propelled her predecessor, Rep. Elaine Noble, into the public eye, told GCN that "Obviously Silber doesn't like 'Gay Way.' He's homophobic and afraid of controversy. He thinks the show has too much allegiance to the gay community and wants to change it from something positive to something controversial. That's if he doesn't get rid of it altogether. He wants, at best, to have debates between John Birchers

and gay activists."

Vic Wheatman, the station's program manager, told GCN that "we have not received a direct order to get rid of the show." Wheatman, clearly pained by the situation, did concede, the existence of "a lot of pressure to change the show and to improve it." We've got to figure out what to do." Wheatman emphasized that changes in some shows and decisions to drop others had been "my doing." He indicated that the woman's show had had a change of format and that he was "comfortable with it."

Bonnie Cronin, WBUR's general manager, said that "at this stage, we have received no word to put on or

(Continued on page 7)

Lie Detector Test Question Still Remains

Atlanta Police Applicants Asked, 'Are You Gay?'



Atlanta Public Safety Director Reginald Eaves

By Jim Marko

ATLANTA, Ga. — Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves has apparently decided to continue a policy of questioning police applicants about their sexuality. A question on the lie detector test that is given to applicants asks "have you or have you not had sexual relations with a member of the same sex?"

Commissioner Eaves, a close associ-

ate of Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, has refused to answer repeated telephone requests from GCN for an interview. Those repeated efforts resulted in an aide's terse reading of a portion of a letter which the Commissioner had sent to gay organizations in Atlanta. "I have not taken a position on whether homosexuals will be admitted into the Police Bureau," the letter read. "I have not been confronted with that issue and I have not publicly stated what position the Bureau of Police Services is going to take. However, as I have in the past, when involved with the issue, I will take what I believe is the appropriate action — what in my estimation is morally right for the citizens of this city."

Eaves' aid was unable to explain to GCN what the Commissioner meant by "morally right for the citizens," or why the Commissioner felt he was not being "confronted" on the issue.

A spokesperson for Atlanta Mayor Jackson admitted to GCN that "there is a question concerning homosexuality on the lie detector test." "But," he continued, "the tests are not being used just now. Commissioner Eaves told the mayor that the question is not a basis for discrimination against any group."

A court injunction was handed down against the city of Atlanta two years ago on a case of reverse discrimination. Since that time, there has indeed been

no hiring of police officers and Eaves was appointed to his present position. The suit against the hiring practices in Atlanta involves both the Fraternal Order of Police (a white officers' organization) and the Afro-American Patrolman Association. With the hiring moratorium, there was a half-hearted effort on the part of gay organizations in Atlanta to meet with Eaves on the question involved in the lie detector tests. Gay organizations are still planning a meeting with the Commissioner.

The spokesperson for Mayor Jackson, who said he knew of no meetings between gay groups and the administration, added that the city is not concerned with its employees' sexuality but merely "keeping the lie detector tests consistent with their form before the court injunction" against hiring was handed down. "The question is asked to ascertain more information about applicants," said the Jackson aide.

Maynard Jackson and Reginald Eaves went to college together and have been close friends for some time. Eaves was brought to Atlanta from his position as Penal Commissioner of Suffolk County, Mass. Before that, he was the director of the Boston Mayor's Office of Human Rights.

In January of 1976, as reported by GCN, Eaves "promised" that gay people would soon be hired as police of-

ficers in Atlanta. "I have no problem with that," Eaves told a panel discussion of the Georgia Bar Association-sponsored Sexual Privacy Project.

According to gay activists in Atlanta, Eaves has been known in the past as being pro-gay. The Commissioner announced at the time of the Sexual Privacy Project that a police sensitivity (to gays) training program was underway in Atlanta.

Earlier this year, the Jackson administration surprised local gays when the mayor refused to issue a proclamation honoring Gay Pride Day. Jackson shifted from his position held in 1976 when he received a large number of complaints from a group calling itself Citizens for a Decent Atlanta. For Gay Pride Week, 1977, which came just a week before Jackson announced his candidacy for a second term, the Mayor ignored the requests for a proclamation. He proclaimed "Civil Liberties Week," containing a vague, general endorsement of every Atlantan's right to constitutional protections.

The office of Mayor Jackson and Atlanta's gay activists view Reginald Eaves' decision to let the lie detector tests stand as nothing more than a legal maneuver in the face of the ongoing court case concerning the city's police hiring practices. As to Eaves' own feelings on the issue, one can only rely on the short statement issued by his office.

news notes

ELDRIDGE CLEAVER, ANITA HEIR?

SAN FRANCISCO — Two California newspapers are claiming involvement by former black revolutionary turned born-again Christian Eldridge Cleaver in anti-gay politics. According to the *Berkeley Barb*, the former Black Panther leader who fled the United States to live in Cuba, Algeria, and France, criticized California Assemblyperson Willie Brown and San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto for campaigning for gay rights in Florida.

In addition, the *San Francisco Sentinel* writes that that newspaper "has been unable to confirm reports from usually reliable sources that Cleaver will soon become the California agent of Save Our Children."



TAX-EXEMPT AT LAST

NEW YORK — The National Gay Task Force's Fund for Human Dignity has been granted tax exempt status under section 501C3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The section makes gifts to the fund, also known as the Howard Brown Memorial Fund, tax deductible.

Ginny Vida of NGTF called the ruling "a major breakthrough for gay organizations" and noted that the ruling followed a two year effort by the Fund. Robert Livingston, Chairperson of the Fund's Board of Directors, recently appointed to the New York Human Rights Commission, said the ruling culminates a "long effort on behalf of the gay community. It opens the way for other qualified gay organizations to receive similar tax exempt status in the coming months."

The Fund for Human Dignity was founded in June 1974 by the late Dr. Howard Brown and renamed for him after his death in January 1975. Its purpose is to fund a broad educational effort against anti-gay prejudice and discrimination.

DR. SPOCK SPEAKS

SAN FRANCISCO — Author and "baby doctor" Benjamin Spock has told the Bisexual Center here that sexual orientation is determined before age five. Spock, author of *Baby and Child Care*, added that teachers do not affect teenage sexual development. "Homosexuality does not result from seductions by homosexual teachers," said Spock.

According to Spock, who announced he would launch a campaign to educate Americans about homosexuality and children, "it is proper and advantageous for children to be taught what homosexuality and heterosexuality are." Spock added that parents should tell their children that gays are "human beings like you and me."

INTEGRITY HONORS CANON

PHILADELPHIA — The Rev. Canon Clinton Jones, Canon of Christ Church (Episcopal) Cathedral, Hartford, will receive Integrity's Outstanding Achievement Award at the third annual national convention of the Episcopal Church group for gays and their friends, Aug. 25 to 28.

Canon Jones will be honored for his many years of ministering to sexual minorities and interpreting those ministries to the Church. He is a member of the Episcopal House of Bishops' Task Force on the Church and the Homosexual, and president of the George W. Henry Foundation, one of the first groups formed in this country to assist gay persons in trouble with the law and society. Canon Jones is also the author of several books on counseling the homosexual, and a new book, "Understanding Gay Relatives and Friends," is scheduled for Spring, 1978, publication.

DE BEAUVIOR & SARTRE SUPPORT

PARIS, FRANCE — Writers Simone de Beauvoir and Jean Paul Sartre have signed a petition supporting gay rights. The petition stated in part that "the battle of Soviet dissidents, of opponents to totalitarian regimes everywhere in the world, of women for freedom to dispose of their bodies, of blacks in South Africa against apartheid, of homosexuals for the right to exist, are one and the same battle."

The circulation of the petition coincided with a gay rights march which was held in Paris on June 26. On that day some 350 to 700 lesbians and gay men and their supporters marched from the Place de la Republique to the Place des Fêtes to protest the Dade County vote against gay civil rights.

BISHOP BACKS 'GOING STRAIGHT'

DENVER, CO — An Episcopal ministry that attempts to change homosexuals to heterosexuals has won the endorsement of the Episcopal bishop of Colorado. Bishop William Frey recently wrote a letter to bishops and other clergy, endorsing the work of the King's Ministries Program. The program is coordinated by William Preussing who claims his program is one of about 30 such organizations in cities throughout the country. Those gay people seeking to change their sexual orientation are referred to the group through Episcopal priests.

In his letter endorsing the group's work, the Bishop wrote that the King's Ministries seeks "to encourage men and women to seek freedom from those lifestyles that are incompatible with the teachings of traditional Christian theology."

According to the Religious News Service, the King's Ministries has an income of about \$1,400 a month of which it spends about \$1,600. William Preussing, head of the ministry, says that he was convinced he was gay when he was a teenager. However now he says that he has "come to feel that heterosexuality is a better way of life and more complete."

Not all of the Colorado Episcopal clergy back Bishop Frey on the issue. Psychologists "have virtually abandoned the idea of changing sexuality," said Rev. Richard Kerr, rector of a Denver Episcopal church. "People ought to be taught instead to accept themselves and how to integrate into the whole community."

ACTIVE IN POUGHKEEPSIE

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY — The Poughkeepsie gay group, the Stonewall Society, continues an active schedule of events as summer draws to a close. The group is holding a benefit clambake and dance at the Maverick Bar near Woodstock on Aug. 27 as well as a second summer picnic on the grounds of Holy Cross Monastery, Route 9W, West Park on Sept. 11. The group also plans a public forum on the theme "Six Clergymen and Homosexuality: Institutional and personal perspective on homosexuality and gay civil rights." The forum will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mental Health Center Hall, Washington Street, Poughkeepsie.

The Stonewall Society holds regular meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the Community House (Christ Church), Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. Anyone interested should call (914) 473-3857.

SYphilis SCREENING DAY

BOSTON — Boston's Gay Health Collective is sponsoring a Syphilis Screening Day to be held on Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland Street, Boston. Tests for syphilis will be held without charge from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gonorrhea cultures will not be available at the time, however.

Ron Vachon of the Gay Health Collective notes that during the month of July 7 cases of syphilis were discovered out of 150 blood tests given at the clinic. This compares with only 2 cases out of 150 during the month of June. According to Vachon, Massachusetts Health Department epidemiologists believe that the source of this increase is the Fenway gay male cruising area.

Symptoms of syphilis are often "mild and inconspicuous," Vachon said. He strongly urged all gay men to be tested for venereal disease at least every 3-6 months.

NO GAYS AT COORS?

GOLDEN, CO — Controversy continues to surround the Coors Brewery's hiring practices and political involvement. As GCN reported (Vol. 5, No. 4) the firm allegedly asks a series of questions including "Are you a homosexual?" during the lie detector tests administered to prospective employees. The company, of course, denies the allegation but the fact is that there are apparently no gay people working for Coors.

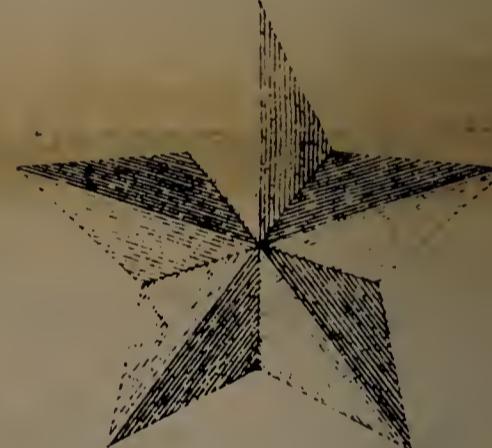
George Mendenhall, a journalist based in San Francisco, reports that he discovered no gay employees during an extensive visit to the Coors plant in Colorado. "Although it cannot be determined if gay people work among the 8000 at Coors," writes Mendenhall, "no local gay activist contacted could name even one, although Coors is the biggest employer in the area (next to Ma Bell). No factor worker on strike — and we talked to many — knew of a gay person working in the factory. That is especially strange in Denver which has a large, upfront gay working population."

A boycott of Coors continues in the San Francisco area, where members of the Tavern Guild have stopped selling the beer. On July 29-30, the Gay Leadership Conference, meeting in Denver, called for the boycott of Coors beer.

POLICE FLAY GAYS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Fraternal Order of Police, a national association of police officers with 150,000 members, voted unanimously at their national convention here last week to oppose the hiring of homosexuals as police officers. "Homosexuals are sick people and sick people shouldn't be policemen," one delegate was quoted as saying.

The FOP was described by a Boston Police Department spokesperson as "a social organization like the Elks or the Moose," which has no official standing in Massachusetts, although they are the officially recognized bargaining units in other areas. The resolution was introduced by a group of officers from Maryland.



PATROLLING THE BLOCK

BOSTON — Increased patrols by marked cars and uniformed officers on "The Block" in Boston's Back Bay were ordered last week by the commander of Boston Police District 4. Residents of Commonwealth Avenue, Marlborough, Berkeley, and Arlington Streets have registered numerous complaints concerning late-night and early-morning noise and traffic problems. Rep. Barney Frank reiterated his request that cruising be limited to non-residential areas.

GRAC BOSTON BOWLING

BOSTON — Gay Recreational Activities Committee's (GRAC) Bowling League's fourth season is about to begin once again. The league, which has drawn up to 60-70 participants in the past, will start its fall season on Sept. 12 at the 1260 Bowling Lanes, next to the popular disco 1270. The first session will take place at 7 p.m. but, in the weeks following, bowling begins at 8 p.m. New members are encouraged to come and women are especially welcome.

SPACE FOR TEENS

BOSTON — The Gay Youth Program, an evening of socializing for gay teenagers, needs a place to hold their weekly socializing, beginning after Labor Day. They need a room that holds about 20 people, for rap groups, speakers, dancing, and other social activities. They will need the space on either every Monday or every Thursday night from 6:00-8:30. Any gay organizations or people that might know of an available space, please contact Eric at 628-1038.

Cuomo Backs Gay Teachers ; Aide Picketed

Strong Statement

NEW YORK — Mario Cuomo, one of the leading contenders for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York, has come out in favor of gays working as teachers. "If the law says that gays cannot be prohibited from teaching merely because they're gays, that's a good law. It is constitutionally required. And that is the policy now at the Board of Education. I am all for that kind of law," Cuomo told Nat Hentoff of the *Village Voice*.

Cuomo went on to elaborate, however, that "if there was further proposal that gays be permitted not only to teach in the public schools but also to proselytize — to try to gain converts to homosexuality while teaching, I am against that law. You can fire heterosexuals for proselytizing in a classroom — that is, giving only one point of view on some ideological subject. And so you should be able to fire gays for doing that, too."

Cuomo told Hentoff that "My rule is what would Jesus do in any given situation?... So what would Jesus have done about the gays? He probably would have said, 'Hey, listen, be gentle. Don't hurt them. They're nice people. God will take care. But they shouldn't hurt anybody either.'"

Cuomo has also taken a strong stand against capital punishment and noted that "I could win the election just by coming out for capital punishment. Especially for gays. And I could absolutely clinch it if I came out for capital punishment preceded by torture."



Mario Cuomo television commercial

Polls show Cuomo running neck-and-neck with Mayor Abraham Beame for second place, behind Bella Abzug, in the upcoming New York Democratic primary, to be held on September 8. The Cuomo strategy is to come in second in the elimination round and to face Abzug head-on in the final primary round to be held soon after. Cuomo, who has been endorsed by New York Governor Hugh Carey, will be on the November ballot whatever happens in the Democratic primary because he has already captured the Liberal Party Mayoralty nomination.

Concord State Prison, respectively. Jose Colon was ordered to be tried as an adult, and he was also sentenced to 20 years at Concord.

The juvenile, however, was remanded to the custody of the state's Youth Services Board after Boston Juvenile Court Presiding Justice Francis G. Poitras refused to allow him to be tried as an adult. He based the decision on a YSB report which cited the boy's good school record, supportive family, and absence of any prior criminal record and suggested that he could be rehabilitated outside prison due to his young age.

Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney John Kiernan was incensed at the action. "As far as I'm concerned," he said, "the juvenile is free. He should be behind bars. It was a vicious, cold-blooded attack on a man begging for his life."

As a result of Poitras's decision, Boston Juvenile Court Associate Justice George Cashman found the youth "delinquent" by reason of armed robbery and murder. Cashman said, "I did the maximum the law empowers me to do. If DYS should release him

ever, Mary Jo Avellar, chairperson of the Board, told GCN that she was sure that had the other two selectmen been present, the vote would have been unanimous. Rep. Cahoon, a conservative Republican, has never voted in favor of gay rights legislation. In last year's election, Cahoon was opposed by Provincetown gay activist Ann Weld-Harrington. However, in the overwhelmingly Republican district, Cahoon was easily re-elected.

GAA Targets Walinsky

SCARSDALE, NY — About 40 gay women and men, some carrying baseball bats, demonstrated at the home of politician and attorney Adam Walinsky earlier this month. The demonstration was organized by New York City's Gay Activists Alliance in response to an anti-gay article written by Walinsky which appeared in the *New York Daily News*. Walinsky, currently chief assistant to New York mayoral candidate Mario Cuomo and a political liberal, attacked gay rights in the *News* article and took a stand against Intro 554, the gay civil rights bill before the New York City Council.

The entire police car fleet of Scarsdale, five cars, responded to the call from the scene at the Walinsky home. During the confrontation Walinsky told GAA Political Action Chairperson Joe Kennedy to "get off my fucking property." Walinsky, who armed himself with a tire iron, sat down on his lawn as the police arrived.

Officers stopped the demonstrators from handing out leaflets which read "Down with bigotry! Down with Walinsky! Gay power now!". The police told the protestors that they were illegally blocking a public highway and were violating the local noise ordinance. Walinsky volunteered to file a complaint and reportedly urged police to jail the protestors.

In response to police orders, the GAA demonstrators moved their picket line from the Walinsky home to the side of the road. The demonstration ended quietly without

further incidents and there were no arrests made.

Walinsky claimed that the words "Go Gay" had been spray-painted across his driveway, eggs had been thrown at the door, both phone lines had been cut and firecrackers had been set off by the demonstrators. GAA assured police that the protestors were not responsible for the vandalism.

In its August 16 editions, the *New York Times*, editorially called the GAA action "an intolerable violation of a family's privacy and safety." The *Times* went on to say that it gave "an enthusiastic amen to Mr. Walinsky's observation after the event that 'homosexuals, like other minorities, must find their true and only safeguard in democratic society, governed not by baseball bats and threats of fire, but by civilized and reasoned debate.'"

Walinsky's article in the *Daily News*, which prompted the angry reaction by GAA, read in part: "The bill [Intro 554] amounts to a formal declaration that homosexuality is morally and socially equal to heterosexuality. This would be wrong . . . We should be mindful of the possible effect [of gay liberation] on the young. Young people today are subject to enormous confusion of every kind. We should not add to their burdens a further confusion of sexual roles and identity that could trouble them throughout their lives. . . . There is . . . no excuse for my government telling me and my children that homosexuality is good or even acceptable . . . Let our statutes be entirely free . . . of the mistakes and profoundly misguided efforts of Intro 554 to declare that a sad aberration is entitled to a legal declaration that it is healthy."

According to New York's *Gaysweek*, when Walinsky ran for the office of Attorney General in New York in 1970, he "wholeheartedly" endorsed the Gay Activists Alliance goal of "demanding the civil rights that inherently belong to all citizens of the United States."

P-town Raid: Sentences Continued

PROVINCETOWN—Three men arrested by undercover police officers in the late July raid on the Atlantic House have had their sentences continued for two years without a finding. The decisions, announced in the Second District Court of Orleans on August 16, carried with them assessments for \$200 in court costs. Three other men arrested in the incident will go to trial later this month. All six men were charged with committing "unnatural acts."

Paul Christo, Provincetown Finance Committee chairperson, who was charged with unnatural acts and assault and battery with a deadly weapon in the incident but never arrested, also had his sentence continued without a finding on the unnatural acts charge. His charge on assault and battery with a dangerous weapon was reduced to simple assault and battery and also continued for two years. Christo was assessed \$200 in court costs on the "unnatural acts" charge and \$100 in court costs, on the assault and battery charge.

Christo, who has three times run for Selectman in Provincetown, told GCN that he doubted that the incident would

affect his career. "I don't think it would," he said. As for running once again for the post of selectman, Christo stated that "it is a decision I still have to make." "The pressure is off," added Christo. "I'm gratified that nothing else happened."

Christo is presently continuing both his work on the town finance committee and also his work toward establishing a community-oriented radio station in Provincetown. Christo says that the plans for the station are "progressing well" and that the application is now before the Federal Communications Commission. Christo hopes that the station will have its license by the end of the year and that it will be operational around January 1, 1978.

A Board of Selectman consideration of the Atlantic House's liquor license was postponed last Monday when two members of the five member board were absent from the meeting and one person disqualified himself. The Board of Selectman plans to discuss the Atlantic House's license next week but there are indications that no decision may be taken until the end of the season.

P'Town Selectmen Back Gay Bills

PROVINCETOWN—The Provincetown Board of Selectmen has sent a letter to its state representative, Howard C. Cahoon, endorsing two gay rights bills now before the Legislature. The board wrote Cahoon of their "public support" of H3676, the public service employment bill, and H3677, the general discrimination bill. The board did not vote to endorse the consenting adults bill, however.

The Board of Selectmen vote was 3-0, with two members absent. How-

editorial

Mobilizing to Save 'Gay Way'

Despite the denials from station officials, there is little doubt that Boston radio station WBUR is preparing to significantly modify or simply to get rid of the weekly radio show "Gay Way." Boston University President John Silber — well-known for his right-wing and anti-gay views — has been monitoring the show for some time and now appears to be taking a much more active role in the affairs of the radio station. Silber seems to want to eliminate anything too controversial on the Boston University radio station and to attempt to change the station's policies to more accurately reflect his own views.

This newspaper believes that "Gay Way" — one of the oldest and finest gay radio shows in the country — is too vital to the community to be left to die without a fight. The gay community has very few media outlets in which to exchange views and information and to build our own culture. From the days when Rep. Elaine Noble co-hosted the show, "Gay Way" has consistently been sensitive, intelligent, and informative in its approach to gay lifestyles and issues. The show has been

especially important to people just "coming out," older people, and people who for various reasons have little contact with the rest of the community.

Although the situation looks grim at this point, it may still not be too late to save "Gay Way" in its present form. An outpouring of community support for the program can force both President Silber and the station management to keep the program on the air. There are indications that the station — while eliminating and revamping other shows — has been afraid, up until now, to touch "Gay Way" because of fears of such a community reaction. GCN strongly urges the entire community to bombard the station with letters, telegrams, and telephone calls. Letters can be sent to Bonnie Cronin, WBUR Station Manager, WBUR, 630 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, and both Cronin and program director Vic Wheatman can be reached by phone at 353-2790. A letter or call to President Silber's office is probably a good idea as well. Let the station hear how you feel and how important a resource the entire community feels "Gay Way" to be.

community voice

kamikaze raid

Dear GCN:

I was flattered and bemused by Cha Cha Heels' vituperative attack upon my politics. It was like being the intended victim of a kamikaze raid, who survives unscathed to watch his attacker crash-land ignominiously. What a shame that his tone is deadly serious, and the humor in his letter is quite unintended. He reminds me of the letter writer who once accused me of attempting to turn GCN into a "counter-cultural rag."

Heels' bathos is an excellent self-satire of the more-radical-than-thou mentality — which is about as "radical" as Jerry Rubin's telling us we should kill our parents. If Heels wishes to retire me to the armchair, I welcome his advice; however, I must correct him that I haven't considered myself a "revolutionary" ever since the selfsame Mr. Rubin turned that word into instant cliche a decade ago by his macho ego-tripping.

John Kypre

conspiracy of culture

Dear GCN:

Having read Mitzel's insightful and timely essay on gay sensibility in the Summer/Fall *Fag Rag* I was doubly disturbed by Robert Etherington's essay on John Horne Burns. Not only does Etherington opt for a straight (and at that ultra-traditional) critical perspective; he also fails to discern the presence of an inherently radical sensibility in Burns' work. Such a gay sensibility inakes a positive weapon of its alienation; it allows an intentionally subversive wit to demystify the myths that support straight culture.

The conspiracy of culture, education and the military in the late forties and fifties has been well documented by Christopher Lasch in *The Agony of the American Left*. The likes of Pilkey and Philbrick Grimes would have been quite at home in such an undetected cabal. They are no more exaggerated or grotesque than Nixon or the headmaster of any present-day boarding school supported with corporate money. To a gay sensibility in 1948, the monolith of straight culture loomed like a monster. Burns attacked with a

vengeance. Etherington would have had him swat flies.

It is a far-ranging indictment that Burns articulated in his work. That he did so with much delightful wit was inevitable; by the lights of 1948 Burns was a faggot. And hardly a stereotypical one. Would that I had met such an irreverent and titillating crew as the Abbess, the Abbot and the Bishop in my high school days.

Harry Seng

cruel invective

Gentle sexual persons:

The invective heaped upon Charles Shively for his burning of the egregious Levitical text is cruel and misdirected. Christianity is indeed the enemy when it countenances the abuse of any of God's children, and we who worship a living and loving Christ ought to be joining, not obstructing, Charlie's efforts to expose the hate that has been established in Christ's name.

As for public relations, I have frequently found copies of *Fag Rag* very effective in showing bishops and other clergy just how deep is the pain caused by the Church's distortion of the Gospel. Charlie is right to complain of those who want to run to church for respectability. Charlie himself often speaks with the clarity of the crusty Old Testament prophets who did not give a damn about having the proper religious credentials to speak their important spiritual truths.

Faithfully yours,
Louie Crew
Founder of Integrity

reactionary attack

Dear GCN:

I want to respond to Wayne Dynes' reactionary attack on lesbians.

First of all, Andrea Dworkin is right. Most gay men are into macho, misogynist trips. However, since we are men, and we do have masculine privilege, most of us have no investment in realizing our sexism or combatting it. If Andrea Dworkin is angry, she has every right to be. Women have been killed and tortured by men for

centuries. As long as the male dominated system remains, in part or parcel, more women will be killed and tortured. Women will not gain their rights by asking for them. They will *take* them. The only way that gay men are going to respond to their sexism is if women like Ms. Dworkin tell them to eat shit.

Anyone who has read *Women Hating* knows that Ms. Dworkin is supportive of anyone working out sexism. She supports transvestites as a revolutionary force. She gives men credit for helping her when they have. Dynes, the real hater-monger in this argument, says that he will be on the opposite side of the barricade from Ms. Dworkin. Good.

Cha Cha Heels

status in societies where homosexuality isn't tolerated? And, in ancient Rome, where homosexuality was also widespread (at least under the Empire), women frequently obtained positions of great power and importance.

d) I will not comment on what Baraka means when he speaks of the "reeducation" of homosexuals in Communist societies. We all know what *that* means.

Baraka's voice is that of Orthodox Communism (or Stalinism — the words are interchangeable). It is sad that a man who was once not without talent should have so degraded himself as to believe such Stalinist rubbish. From now on, let's ignore him.

Sincerely,
Robert Etherington

JOB OPPORTUNITY

GCN is looking for a Promotions Manager, preferably with experience in advertising, marketing, promotion, and public relations. The job pays a base salary plus commission. To apply, call Harry or Lester at 427-1893 or send resume to GCN.

WRITERS

GCN is looking for volunteer writers to write both news and features. Anyone interested should call Neil Miller at (617) 426-4469 or write GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108.

HARASSMENT

In view of the recent violent attacks on gay men at Crane's Beach in Ipswich, GCN is attempting to collect documentation of other violence against gay people at the beach. Anyone who has been the victim of harassment at Crane's Beach is urged to write GCN. Anonymity is assured.

NOTICE

September 7 is the last day to register to vote in the preliminary municipal elections to be held on Sept. 27. in Boston, voter registration is held every day at City Hall in Government Center, as well as at every Little City Hall. For dates of evening and Saturday registration sessions, call the city Elections Dept. at 725-4300.

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Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

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producing results

Dear GCN:

Re: your letter to the editor column of July 9th in which a writer, choosing to remain unnamed, takes to task Representative Elaine Noble.

I know Elaine Noble. I live in her district. I know something about her legislative record and her legislative performance, and I think she is doing one very good job as my Representative. The ability of a gay woman from a poor district to deliver constituent services consistently and effectively instead of being completely shut out and powerless as her critics predicted is a testimony to Elaine's intelligence and sensitivity and political awareness.

Elaine was "hired" by the voters to produce results and to help people, not to simply posture and try to look good by voting blindly in opposition to whatever the "Leadership" wants.

You know, maybe her critics have it backwards; instead of Elaine "voting with the Leadership" so often, maybe the "Leadership" is voting with Elaine.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Cronin

battle of the elves

Dear GCN:

You know I have the utmost respect for your quality in news and reporting. However, there have been a few occasions when I wonder if you're overworked and therefore negligible in your quoting or if, in fact, elves sneak in before press time and indiscriminately change copy. Also, I wonder if the elves also get into editorializing a bit, at everyone's expense. "Clear swipe at Christ" indeed!! Here is my entire letter to the editor of the *Provincetown Advocate*:

Enough already

To the Editor:

Well, after reading last week's *Advocate*, I feel like a whole lot of us who have been working in the gay movement for gay rights have been sold out. Sold out by a few people

who regard themselves as above the law, who ascribe to a poll-tax mentality and who have total disregard for the struggle that is going on around them.

It's unfortunate that *an unnatural acts* statute remains on the books as defining sex between two men or two women as unnatural. But, what is more unfortunate is that some people go further and perform their "unnatural acts" in public, therefore bringing embarrassment to most of us.

In case anyone is wondering, the gay bill, H.B. 3676 is before the House in August. And if it goes down I would like to here and now thank those people who fail to take our movement seriously and who, in essence, are laying a joke on all of us. Enough already!

Ann Weld-Harrington
Provincetown

How anyone could determine that I was taking a clear swipe at any "one" person is clearly beyond me. If I meant Christo, I would have said so. I have never believed in beating around any bushes! What I meant by my letter, if one needs an interpretation, is: that it's very difficult to work for gay rights bills and the acceptance of gays, when some of us are obviously unconcerned with the struggle around them, insist upon supporting a publicly licensed place that openly discriminates against one-half the gay population — women — and publicly perform in a manner that is questionable and can only bring embarrassment to those of us who are trying to bring some legitimacy to the gay movement and struggle. I know I'm not alone in this thinking. It's time we cleaned up our act and got on with the business of seriously promoting gay legislation and our rights — the same rights that straights are privileged to have and adhere to.

Ann Weld-Harrington

(Ed's Note: We may be overworked but no elves sneak in before press time and change copy. We stand by our original interpretation of Ms. Weld-Harrington's remarks.)

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*Campaign Finance laws require us to file the names of all those who donate \$15 or more with the Public Records Division of the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.



pro-partners

Dear GCN:

The questions raised by Dai Thompson in her Conntact column (Aug. 13) about Partners prompted discussions between members of the Connecticut Gay Task Force and some of the people who own Partners. From those discussions the following consensus emerged:

Many gay bars exist only to exploit the gay community as a captive audience and in doing so are often sexist and racist. New Haven has such bars. We also have Partners, which is somewhat different — a gay-owned community bar which is consciously supportive of the wider political efforts of gay persons to effect social change. Partners does have a flourishing, separate women's bar and, compared to the other bars in town, does not have a blatantly racist carding policy. Partners has as an organization frequently lent support to gay activist organizations through contributions of time and money and space for benefits, without seeking special publicity for itself, and individual partners have given their personal money and time as well.

The Connecticut Gay Task Force explicitly recognizes that it is fighting not only heterosexism but its allied oppressions — sexism and racism. Sometimes this sounds like a holy crusade of the Pure against the Wicked, but to our shame we find concrete vestiges of all these discriminatory patterns in our own lives and in

those of our friends and allies. We are determined to recognize these and fight against them. For instance, there is a painful humiliation felt by black people and women when they are singled out for special, perjorative treatment, such as hearing the women's bar always referred to as the "girls' bar" while the other floors are called the "men's bar," or carding only the one black person in a group of friends who come to the bar together. This is not the violence of the KKK, but it is the thoughtless, sleepwalking oppression still exercised by those who are used to white or male privilege.

Individual members of the Task Force hold divergent views of how to struggle against residual racism and secondary sexism, which are often the most painful, but we are committed to the principle of struggling together against oppressive discriminations. We hope that Partners and all gay groups will stand together in fighting sexism and racism and heterosexism wherever they occur.

Ad Hoc Committee of the Connecticut Gay Task Force:
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Cleveland Mayor Blasts Gays; His Pornography Poll Called 'Sham'

CLEVELAND, OH — As the results of his highly-publicized pornography poll were being called a "sham" by his opponents, Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk delivered a blistering attack on gay people late last month. The conservative mayor and anti-pornography crusader told reporters following his city-sponsored "National Conference on the Blight of Obscenity" that "... people who feel it is necessary to have sex with animals, with children, or rubber dolls, or themselves or with the same sex are not practicing what is normal. I call them pornomaniacs."

Perk stated that he was unaware if any members of his staff or any of the city's 10,000 employees were in fact gay. "If someone covered by Civil Service was found guilty of homo-

sexuality, I would have to check with the Civil Service Commission on what to do," he said.

Meanwhile, the local gay newspaper *High Gear* reports that only 4% of the Mayor's 280,000 pornography questionnaires have been returned to the city. The survey was distributed by the city's garbage collectors. According to the results of the Perk poll, 85.7% of those questioned objected to materials catering "to homosexuals and sadists" while 72.3% favored banning material that offended the average person.

However, a scientific telephone poll, commissioned by the city and taken by a Cleveland State University communications professor, Dr. Jae-won Lee, came up with different results from the "garbage poll." According to

Lee's survey, 55.4% objected to the "homosexual and sadistic" materials while 41.8% of those favored a ban on material that offended the average person. On the subject of pornography itself the Lee survey showed that only 33.8% favored a complete ban, in contrast to the "garbage poll" findings

that 71% favored a complete ban.

Ken McGhee, aide to Mayor Perk, told GCN that the 18 question survey for the polls had been drafted by the Law Department of the City of Cleveland and a group of professors at Cleveland State University.

South End Man Brutally Beaten

BOSTON — A 23-year old gay man from the South End was listed in fair condition at Boston City Hospital last week following a brutal assault at his St. Botolph Street apartment on August 5. The man, who is an employee at a local gay bar, suffered multiple fractures of the face and is

missing his left eye.

Boston Police Informational Services Officer Paul Griffin told GCN that the man reported being accosted in the hallway by an unknown white male whom he could not describe. The incident is under continuing investigation by detectives from District 4.

To Ken,

Softly, like a raindrop on a rose petal
You came into my life.
No bells ringing, no trumpets blowing;
Bringing with you all the mysteries, joys & sorrows
Of your very being.

For seven years we've traveled life's path;
Growing together; learning on our own;
Understanding when needed, criticizing if we must;
Not always a song; but still a harmony.

Time we take as each day passes by;
No favors, no promises, just the reality of today.
For all we know forever ends right here.
Be that as it may
It can't erase all that we've shared.

And now here we stand — once again;
On the threshold of tomorrow;
Not always together, yet never alone;
Wondering, living for seven years more.
Love, Sean

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500 Gather For Festive Connecticut Outing

NEW HAVEN, CT — Under the banner of OUR GATHERING 1977, about 500 women and men participated in a day-long outing in the Connecticut countryside on Saturday, Aug. 13. Sponsored by the Southern Connecticut Organization for Human Rights (SCOHR), the event was what one person described as a "gay day camp."

OUR GATHERING 1977 was held on the grounds of a Scouts of America camp about ten miles from New Haven. The camp had been rented for the day, and activities included typical camp fare: volleyball, badminton, baseball, swimming, sack races and tug-of-war games. But there were some not-so-typical day camp events such as the "Almost Live" female impersonation show and, naturally, same-sex disco dancing.

For the serious-minded, there were speeches. Dr. Jo-Ellen Yale, a lesbian psychologist, Bob Riordan of Gay Pride Boston and Joe Martin of Massachusetts Gay Legislation spoke of different aspects of gay liberation.

During a mid-afternoon shower, a foot-stomping folk music performance was given by Connecticut artists in the camp's dining hall. The performers consisted of an equal number of women and men.

According to Richard Kubeck, a

member of the Southern Connecticut Organization for Human Rights and an organizer of OUR GATHERING 1977, the purpose of the event was "to get gay people together and have fun and celebrate openly." Tickets of admission were sold by SCOHR members and bars throughout Connecticut. The ten dollar fee provided admittance to the entire day's activities, unlimited food and beverage at breakfast, lunch and dinner, and free admission to New Haven bars Partners and The Dungeon later that evening. Organizers hope the event will become an annual affair.

Throughout the day artists displayed their works in the Art Exhibit Center on the campgrounds. Among the participants were Jean Wilborn, a stained glass artist and Boston photographer Marcus DiVito.

The intermittent showers of the first part of the day failed to discourage many from taking part in the athletic games.

One of the day's more touching moments occurred when a woman and her uncle "came out" to each other, initially unaware that they would both wind up at a gay festive occasion. "It's a very beautiful day for me," the proud uncle boasted. "It would be wonderful to see days like this again and again."



AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT 'GAY DAY CAMP': (l-r) Bob Riordan, co-chairperson of Boston's Gay Pride '77, Jo-Ellen Yale, lesbian psychologist from New Haven, and Joe Martin, coordinator of Massachusetts Gay Legislation.

'Gay Way' Under Pressure

(Continued from page 1)

take off" any shows. She said that reports that Ann Maguire would be replaced by a "neutral" person were unfounded — "nothing like that has been decided." Cronin asserted that there has been "no move or big drive to replace Ann." She criticized the "vast overreaction" to what was going on at the station and told GCN that she had had "no communication direct or indirect with John Silber."

"Everything gets blamed on Silber," she said and added that "BU deserves credit and so does Silber for not muck-

ing around with the station. . . ." She said that the station was now reporting to a different vice-president than previously and that there was "more understanding in the administration."

However Cronin did talk about a "change in format" to more frequent "production pieces." "There is a value to highly produced programs and documentaries," she said, and Program Director Wheatman indicated at the ascertainment meeting that he planned to air more National Public Radio documentaries than in the past. Cronin did observe, though, that "many of my gay friends don't listen to the program [Gay Way] anymore." She stated that people "need elementary education" on the subject of homosexuality. "I'm very proud that WBUR was a forerunner of gay programming," said Cronin.

GCN's efforts to contact "consultant" Littell proved unsuccessful.

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Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Suki, But Were Too Distracted In Chaps to Ask Her



By Steve Savage

Susan "Suki" Eagan, manager of the Boston bar Chaps, describes her own personal odyssey as "local debutante to fag hag to fag bar owner." Suki was born in New Haven, Connecticut, where she spent an adolescence characterized by horses and sports cars. Thrown out of convent schools as a "misfit," Suki left home at age 16, was a special student in theatre at Yale, and later became a "starving artist" in New York. In New York, Suki worked for a firm that made costumes for celebrities. "My job was to take a magnet and make sure there were no common pins lying around. I had to make sure there were no pins in Barbra Streisand's feet."

Suki soon moved to Boston where she worked as a typist/receptionist "making coffee, reading *Cosmopolitan*, and watering palm trees." But she soon fled the glamour of corporate baby-sitting for "social relevance." She found herself "counting broken lightbulbs" in public housing projects for a San Francisco organization called OSTI. The organization was headed by Evelyn Murphy, the present Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, and the filmmaker Frederick Wiseman. But after the federal government didn't come through with the promised money for a \$500,000 renovation project, Suki quit in "disgust." She then worked for a San Francisco attorney, assisting draft dodgers and "trying to get people out of Vietnam."



The East beckoned this "political radical," and Suki found herself in Harvard Square with no job and no prospects. She was hired on as a dishwasher at Casa Mexico and from there it was a "true American success story" as she moved up the ranks to be the restaurant's general manager. A regular at Styx — "one of the three females they let in" — she drank a lot and met Harry and soon began her association with the newly established Chaps.

GCN: What do you hope to do with Chaps? Is this the summit of your ambitions?

S: Oh, please (laughter). No, Chaps is going to be the way it is, and it's going to change, as far as decor, yearly, 'cause I don't like things to remain the same.

GCN: How is it going to change?

S: I'm not going to tell you.

GCN: How did you happen to hit on this particular ambience?

S: It's just the way I felt at the moment. It's kind of like a copy of a home I used to live in. Except the neon. The neon sculpture was a direct rip-off from a lover of mine who was an artist who did leaners like that...



GCN: He did the neon?

S: Yeah... He was really pleased. The sign and stuff came out of our house, 'cause our house got torn down and he moved to New York. Things like Noonan's hairdressing thing came from our house. And Charles Atlas came out of a 1947 *Sports Life* that I was looking through. And I just thought it was kind of camp, it was a goof. And I was hoping people would pick up on that mentality, which I don't know if they did. And then the garage lights, you know, I've always really liked those. And now they're selling them in *Gentleman's Quarterly* for twenty-five dollars. I think it's fabulous (chuckle). And the neon, it was like a really cheap way of lighting. It's cheaper than any other kind of lighting.

GCN: When was this you did all that?

S: October of last year. And October of this year it's going to be all new again.

GCN: Now, when you redecorate, are you going to make it different, or are you going to do the same thing again, and make it like the way you live?

S: Oh yeah. It'll be comfortable for me. That's where the general concept comes...

GCN: So you're not going to try to imitate a New York bar.

S: Uh, no. Why should I?

GCN: Well, I don't know. You might attract more people.

S: Well, they can go to New York.

GCN: Right. But it might be commercially wise.

S: Oh, I've never been commercially wise. When I did the original decor, it was, "I don't care if you like it, it's my bar and I've got to stay here more than you do." So, what else can I say?

GCN: Did the restaurant have a liquor license — a beer and wine license?

S: Yeah.

GCN: So you have basically a restaurant liquor license?

S: Yeah, well, every bar does. There's that old blue law that says you're supposed to serve food. But it could be boiling water on the top of the bar. Doesn't matter.

GCN: Right, yeah. Are you interested in getting a regular liquor license?

S: No.

GCN: Why?

S: 'Cause I like beer and wine. It's very simple. You have less problems with hard-core drunks. Yeah. It's not a hassle.

GCN: Do you ever get police hassles, you know, for overcrowding?

S: Occasionally. Our capacity's very small.

GCN: Have you gotten citations for overcrowding?

S: No.

GCN: Do you get along with the police?

S: Do I get along with the police? They love me.

GCN: Good.

S: You got a sweet girl.

GCN: A lot of people are wondering why you happened to bring Rosario in from the outside. You know, people who have been coming here for a long time, and suddenly Rosario appears, and seems to be in charge, you know? How did that happen?

S: Uh, I went on vacation in Key West, and I sat and watched him work for three weeks, and I feel in love with him.

GCN: As a bartender.

S: No, as a person. The people that I hired to work here I didn't hire for their background and skills. I hired them for their personalities and because we got along. Rosario and I are like matching bookends — he's my male counterpart — we think the same way.

GCN: How come you fight so much?

S: We don't fight. We play — that's not fighting.

GCN: Really? You mean you do, in fact, get along?

S: Famously.

GCN: People talk, you know — they see you two behind the bar doing your thing...

S: Well, we banter back and forth, and carry on...

GCN: There are other owners, right?

S: Well, uh, let's not get into that.

GCN: But they don't have to do with direct management?

S: No, none of them have to do with anything. So Rosario has a lot of common sense, he's had his own business in Chicago, and, he just knows a lot of stuff. And we agree and we disagree. The only time he really gets angry with me is when I get crazy, and I open the bar for three hours. But that's me. And after I've done it, and he watches what happens, you know, to the people, he realizes that I made the right move, but he's, uh...

GCN: Yeah. I think you made the right move. I was going to ask you about that.

S: Well that's me, that's real me, I wanna have a party and I want everybody to be as fucked up as I am. Why should you be sitting here and being lonely, you know, when you should be having a good time. And it takes the emphasis off of cruising and sexuality, and makes it more like kind of a party thing, and everybody feels comfortable, and nobody feels like "I'm a piece of shit 'cause I didn't get somebody tonight," and they don't feel so lonely. And that's real important.

GCN: That's nice. I never really thought of it that way, but it's really true. Everybody rushes for the bar, and in their rush for the bar, they bump into somebody to talk to...

S: Well, that's it, it's much looser then, 'cause I'm being crazy behind the bar, and 'cause of my feeling with my other bartenders, it gets real lecherous back there, and the energy's from behind the bar. Like when Rosario and I have a really *on* day, I mean, we could sell this place out of beer, you know. It's a real good combination. And that's obvious at the end of the night when we count our tips. And like I don't take tips — I just work for them. When I work behind the bar, I work for the bartenders. It's cheaper for the house, and it's cheaper for the bartenders, 'cause he doesn't have to split tips with other guys. So I'm workin' for Rosario when I'm back there.



GCN: Do you get a salary? I read somewhere that you're the manager of Chaps.

S: I'm the manager of Chaps, yes.

GCN: You're not the owner of Chaps?

S: Well, I am, too. Ah, that came by default.

GCN: So you get a salary because that's the way the thing is set up?

S: I get a salary because I do everything. I do the bookkeeping, the accounting, the ordering...

GCN: But as an owner, you must also get a share of the profits.

S: There is no profit, dahlin'. There's no profit. That's why Harry works as a bartender — that's how we live.

GCN: There's no profit at all?

S: No, I mean, 'cause I'm more interested in giving, and being a madwoman than in making money. This bar could make a lot of money. If I sold beer for the stated beer price of seventy cents a mug, if I didn't give away for three hours. Or if I didn't, you know, I have certain people who come in here every single day, that if I'm near the bar, or behind the bar, they drink for free all day. Simply because I know that they don't have money, or because they're just nice people, and 'cause I remember when they were here and no one else was. Our business was built on regulars. I know two-thirds of the customers by name — even a little bit more than that. And some of them are real special — to me. I mean it's not a blanket policy, so-and-so drinks for free, but if I'm around they'll drink for free.

GCN: How come you advertise so much, if you're so into serving your regulars, and so on, and not making a profit?

S: What do you mean "advertise"?

GCN: Well, this thing for Blueboy, for instance.

Photos by Angela Russo

S: Oh, that's a goof.

GCN: It seems like you're always doing some lavish ad.

S: Now hold on! The lavish ad is a goof. *Blueboy* came to me a year and a half ago, as a new magazine. We were a new bar. We were up against the wall, making no money, and I thought to myself, "I have really good-looking bartenders, and they're really working for shit money," I mean, Robert used to walk out of here with ten dollars after eight-hour shifts in tips. I needed something to really boost their ego and make them feel special — so I used my bartenders in the ad...

GCN: That's cool. I didn't realize you did that. But what about your other advertising — you do a lot of other advertising.

S: I do other advertising, in GCN and *Esplanade*, dahlin', because I have to.

GCN: You mean because you want to support the gay community?

S: Because these newspapers come to me every week and ask me for an ad — otherwise they wouldn't be on the stands, if the advertisers didn't advertise.

GCN: But you must think it will bring in business.

S: Dahlin', it doesn't bring any business here.

GCN: What does bring business here?

S: Word of mouth.

GCN: Really. You mean you would not advertise at all except to support the publications?

S: I would never advertise, except for special events. I mean like I advertised the Champagne Party, because I wanted everybody to come. I advertised when we were voted best bar, because I sincerely wanted to thank the people that made us best bar. And that was the easiest way of doing it besides opening the bar, which I did, too. Um, advertising means nothing to me. And the *Blueboy* thing, it doesn't cost me any money because Robert does the print, and I use my bartenders, and Robert has that talent of layout and advertising.



GCN: Now getting back to Rosario.

S: Well, Rosario and I work as a team. He makes no decisions, about anything, without talkin' to me first. So I'm technically the manager — he's the front man. He helps me — we work together. He never does things on his own — ever. Any major policy decision, as to who gets fired or hired, or whatever, is mine, I give raises, I open the bar, he helps — he's here for me — he gives me moral support, he's the one who holds me and says, "It's going to be okay, don't worry about it." Even if it's not okay, and I should be worrying about it. But that's, you know, that's his trip — he has a title, and he gets fifty cents more an hour — for his title. Um, and he doesn't go crazy with it.

My bar was built by Frazier, Gary Manson, Robert Feck, Jeff Picoli — that's who built my bar. When I hired those people, that's when my bar started cookin'. 'Cause Frazier gets along with anybody — he has a magnetic personality, he has a fabulous smile, and he can make the worst piece of shit feel like king for a day. Yeah. And that's what built my bar. And because he has no biases — Frazier, you know, will serve anybody — they don't have to be pretty, or in

Papagayos, or whatever — they just have to have a dollar and be nice — and he'll smile and be just as warm to them as to, uh, a current lover. And that's what built the bar. And my bartenders really did build the bar — but I really believe when I hired Frazier and Gary that's when things started really cookin'. Frazier and Gary worked for me for free — for six months — they didn't take any money from the house. They worked for tips. They both had other jobs, and they came in here and they hustled their ass.

GCN: How did you find them?

S: 'Cause they were good friends of mine.

GCN: How did you meet them in the first place?

S: I knew them. 'Cause I was a regular customer at Styx, since Day One — I was one of the few women they let in.

GCN: And that's how you met Harry, too, I imagine.

S: That's how I met Harry, yeah. That's how I met David Graham. David Graham was very influential in building this bar — Papagayos was very influential in building this bar. And Papagayos, regardless of common

opinion, or the way the community feels, are a bunch of men that are very attractive, and the crowd comes where there is a crowd, and they built my Sundays. They would come in here *en masse* — they'd stand around, whether they were drinkin' grapefruit juice, or just standin' around — they made people want to come. It became the place to come.

GCN: I didn't realize that. I knew there were a lot of them here, but I didn't realize it was sort of a conscious decision.

S: Well, yeah, because I knew a lot of them. And they were being really supportive, because they liked the bar, and they liked the openness of the bar...

GCN: Is it true that you're planning to open a new place?

S: Yes.

GCN: In Boston?

S: Maybe.

GCN: A different type of place?

S: Totally a work of love. Something that I'm more comfortable with. For my own entertainment. And if somebody else gets off on it, that's fine.

GCN: So it will be similar to this

place in that respect, but a different kind of place.

S: Oh, yeah, well it won't be a cruise bar.

GCN: A disco?

S: Probably, yeah.

GCN: To start a new place, or when you started this place, you must have had to have a lease, and all that sort of thing. Can you just walk into a bank and say, "I'm starting a gay disco and I need a hundred thou?"

S: Well, it's really easy to walk into banks — you know, you put on our goin' to bank suit, and, uh, my family background, my accessibility to funds, I have that, I have good credit with banks.

GCN: Family credit, or your own credit?

S: No, my own personal. Even when we were starving, I had an American Express card, which I didn't dare use, 'cause we had no money to pay it, but I still had it, nonetheless. I don't believe in the American way of credit. I mean, for my own personal life, I live from credit card to credit card, and bill to bill, and I'm very extravagant, but for a business, as in Chaps, everything that

(Continued on page 12)

1270: 7 Years & Going Strong

(These pictures were all taken by Angela Russo at the birthday party for the Boston bar, held on August 9.)



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Honest, Beguiling, 'Outrageous' Step Forward

"Outrageous!" Written and directed by Richard Benner. Starring Craig Russell and Hollis McLaren. At the Orson Welles, Cambridge, and Cinema II, New York City.

By David Holland

There are films, which, at first glance, appear to teeter perilously between being damned or heralded. "Outrageous!" Richard Benner's low-budget (\$165,000) Canadian film, rides such a critical see-saw. On the one hand, it's a charming, often whimsical, depiction of the relationship between a schizophrenic young woman (Hollis McLaren) and her female impersonator hair-dresser friend (Craig Russell). On the other hand, it hints at a cinematic exploitation of the bizarre, not, as you might expect, in terms of its gay characters, but in relation to the schizophrenic young woman.

The premise of "Outrageous!" — that people's craziness is merely a reflection of the world around them and that they are sane in their own right — is perhaps at this point a rather overworked one. It's a premise that's been used before and that must be compared with that of a film like "King of Hearts." But the difference here is that the imaginative veil is lifted and we are given a key-hole view of our neighbors. And our neighbors happen to be gay.

In different hands, the film might not have turned out as clean and simple as it is. Attribute this to director Richard Benner's youth or his attempt to use gay characters towards whom no stones may be cast. The gay characters (who make up almost the entire cast) are not the tormented folk who populate Fassbinder's films or the caricatures that Hollywood is accustomed



"Outrageous" director Richard Benner

to giving us. In "Outrageous!", gayness is a normal, ordinary feature of life and neither the characters nor director Benner give it a second thought. In fact, discussing their sexuality in a paragraph in a review is emphasizing the issue more than Benner did. It's a *bravissimo* accomplishment on his part.

From the gay liberation point of view, the film is far ahead of almost anything that has come before. "Outrageous!" makes no concessions to the view that the only gay fit to be seen on the screen is a straight-appearing junior executive with a lover of ten years. The film's hero, Robin, is a full-fledged drag queen and the movie never pretends he's anything other than that. The film treats Robin's 'coming out' into drag with sensitivity and understanding — "When I was 14, I looked at myself in the mirror . . . and I screwed the lid on tight," says Robin. "When I was 18 I looked at myself in the mirror . . . and I screwed

the lid on again," he says. For Robin, "Outrageous!" is a gradually letting go, an attempt to come to terms with himself."

But "gay" is not Benner's only concern. He has handled other qualities of his characters with equal calm. Liza has escaped a seven-year involuntary confinement in a mental institution where schizophrenia is still "corrected" or "controlled" with shock therapy. She moves in with Robin, a friend who is beginning to turn his fascination with female impersonation into a career. The film subtly allows Robin to burrow into our hearts by virtue of Robin's humanistic, and ultimately realistic, approach to Liza's "illness." He treats Liza as one would treat a best friend and takes the center of attention away from her and her problems — relieving her of the nightmarish hallucinations that literally crush her in the midst of her dreams.

Complications arise when Liza discovers, to her delight and against the warnings of her psychiatrist, that she is pregnant. However, Robin, to her chagrin, has decided to leave for New York to further his career as an impressionist. Robin leaves Liza in the incapable hands of her friend Martin, a disturbed man who believes himself the living successor to Mao Tse Tung. Robin lands padded engagement contracts in New York as a result his marvelously talented imitations of Garland, Mae West, Bette Davis, Bette Midler, Carol Channing, et. al. — performances which, on screen, are themselves well-worth the price of admission.

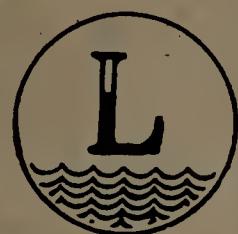
Liza's giving birth to her anxiously awaited child proves the antithesis of Robin's burgeoning career. The baby is born dead. The event catapults Liza in-



(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 9)

comes in here is paid for before it comes in. Everything. Down to toilet paper.

GCN: Has that always been true?

S: No, when I took over . . .

GCN: But when you say you're not a good businesswoman, that you hired Rosario to handle business.

S: No, you misconstrued that — I hired Rosario because Rosario added to what I already knew, and I could talk to him as an intelligent human being.

GCN: You knew enough to maintain your credit.

S: I knew enough to get this place out of the hole for a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

GCN: That was the restaurant?

S: Yes, dahlin' — and it was go for broke. I was hired as manager of the restaurant, and I came in here and said, "There's no way in hell you're going to be able to do it without money." When you have a restaurant, you have to have at least a year's money — to be able to buy food, to pay your employees, to be able to carry on even if nobody comes in the door, you still got one dinner. And they were already in the hole because of the American way of credit — all the liquor companies — it was absurd, it was insane — I said, strip it down, we'll do a bar, you — work on your license.

GCN: Who were these people — are they people who are still owners?

S: Ah, yes. Yes. They are. Well, one of them is no longer with us. Harry is

still here.

GCN: He was one of the owners of the restaurant?

S: Yes. But Harry didn't know what he was doing.

GCN: And you didn't buy in, you

just became manager.

S: I was hired as manager. And I worked for ten months, basically because of Harry, because he stood to lose a lot, and, nobody knew what to do. I just guessed, and because of my

experience before in business, I guessed better than the rest of them. And I had a general idea about my concept of a bar, and how I'd feel comfortable, 'cause I'd been hangin' out in gay bars since I was sixteen.

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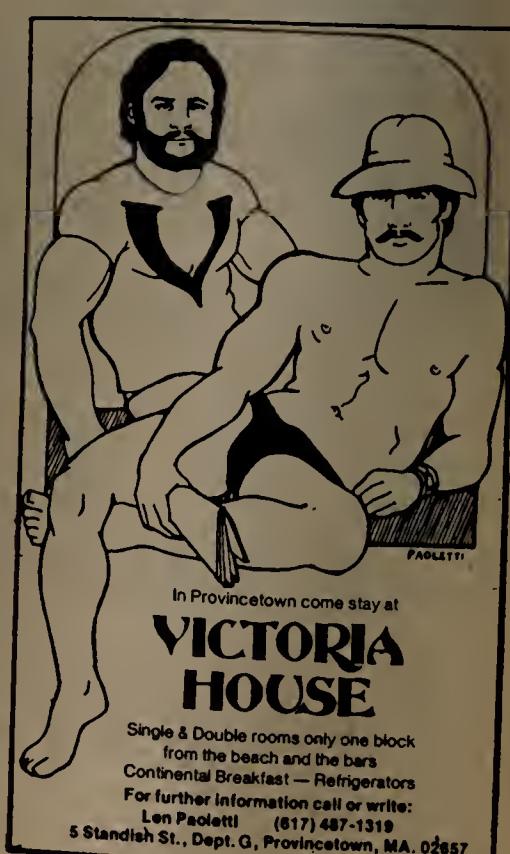
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people, places and flings

By David Holland

It's almost all over. Blankets, books, coolers on the Esplanade. A whirl at the Boatslip Tea Dance. The mile-long treks across the Crane's Beach sands. Round-trip boat rides to the tip of the Cape. The cook-outs, shorts, t-shirts, beer-fests. Packed away for another year until we open Pandora's box next July. Memories, memories, memories . . . **Gordon Merrick** author of *The Lord Won't Mind* has released his latest in the unending bedroom tales of gaydom. This one, *An Idol for Others*, is packed with muck of the same. In it, Walter — voted Father of Year — meets Tom to whom he proposes unfailing love and devotion, foresees the end of his marriage to his wife Clara, questions the meaning of all this fleshy atrocity. And that's just the first chapter of Merrick's formula novel. *An Idol for Others* is little more than a graven image . . . Macmillan Publishers has sent out a little message that **Alan Ebert**, author of "The Homosexuals" was once **Anita Bryant's** press secretary. Odd, she wasn't once included in the book. Applications for the job

can be addressed c/o Bryant Enterprises, Miami, Fla; an equal-opportunity employer . . . Now that summer is over, **Dennis Fisher** of Styx will undoubtedly be returning to the Record Pool meetings, which he was unable to attend because of a position spinning records on Fire Island. By the way, what club were you working at Dennis? . . . The Hollywood Bowl is organizing a small benefit protesting Ms. Anita. Among those slated to appear: **Lily Tomlin** and **Bette Midler** . . . New York star-gazers caught **Andy Warhol** at the infamous Eros Male Vaudeville Burlesque. According to viewers, he arrived with his own traveling show all of the post-pubescent (just barely) variety . . . **Francis Toohey**, late of *Esplanade* fame, present of *Nightfall*, has returned from a extended visit to our Atlantic neighbors in England. Perhaps a premiere showing of his escapades will be appearing shortly in friendly neighborhood bars . . . **Laurence D. Young's** showing of graphics at the **Gallery Cafe** continues until the 24th of this month . . . Special Advanced notice: The Atlantic

Gallery, located near the South Station, will be opening up a photographic exhibit that will open more eyes to Boston's answer to Soho. I've seen some of the photos — can only wait to see the rest! . . . For those of you who like to keep up with the current glut of publications and who's doing what: **Jack Campbell** is now in the publishing business (along with the Club Bath business). His new endeavor is called **Alive!** and if you want to try an issue (which looks fine) write **Alive! Plaza** 7000, 7000 SW 62nd Ave., Miami, Fla. 33143 . . . As for other publications I must say that New York's popular little mag, *Michaels' Thing* has stepped back about ten years with their inclusion of

"**Donna's Dish.**" When there's a city of 8,000,000 to talk about it seems they could better utilize the three-plus pages devoted to such astute literature that employs such phrases as, "Moons of full for days" what ever that means . . . As for books near and far: What big-time promoter in town (read the fine print on the Prop, Charles Playhouse Productions, and others) is seeking a publisher for his book, *This Isn't My Cup of Tea* wherein he takes a look at local critics and audiences. The title came from **Eliot Norton's** comments on leaving the first act of *Tubstrip*, another promoted production by the author . . . **Dietrich** fans: **Charles Higham**, who penned the voluminous biography of **Katherine Hepburn** has recently finished a similar book on Marlene. All you wanted to know, but didn't know who to ask. . . .

'Outrageous'

(Continued from page 11)

to nightmares too real to bear. Robin returns to Toronto and carries her back to New York, as he tries to prove to Liza that "life must go on" by accepting one's craziness.

It's here that the film's major weakness comes into view. Liza must be de-

centered and no one can do it with more charm or feeling than Robin. Mental health, says "Outrageous!", is a matter of acceptance and insanity is given its own domain. Yet that kind of conclusion can't help but leave one uneasy. Is schizophrenia with all its horrible moments a state that can just be made to go away by giving into life's own "craziness?" That's an open question but here the film has only a pat answer.

Beyond theories of mental health, "Outrageous" is here awarded a conditional four star rating. The non-Hollywood casting of this small and simple film, the presentation of gay life, are both honest and beguiling. The four stars are on the condition that Benner give us even more of his vision, now that he has furthered the image of gays as human beings in film.

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12 Carver St. 338-8577

Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 7PM. Thurs.

Viking Club Nite.

NAPOLEON CLUB

52 Piedmont St. 338-7547

Dancing Fri., Sat., Sun.; Men.

PLAYLAND

21 Essex St.

Men (Some Women).

119 MERRIMAC

119 Merrimac St. 523-8960

Dancing, Men, Tues.-Thurs. Buffet 9-11PM.

RAINBOW ROOM

15 Lansdowne St.

Disco Dancing, Men.

SAINTS

(Call 354-8807) Women

SOMEWHERE

295 Franklin St. 423-7730

Disco Dancing, Mixed. Sunday Brunch 12-2PM

SPORTER'S CAFE

228 Cambridge St.

Food, Men, Saturday Brunch 5PM, Movies

Mon. 3PM, Sunday Brunch 3PM.

STYX

20 Blagden St. 247-3910

Disco Dancing, Men.

THE SHED

272 Huntington Ave

Leather, Men, Sunday Brunch 4PM.

TOGETHER

110 Boylston St.

Disco Dancing, Mixed

1270

1270 Boylston St. 261-1257

Disco Dancing, Mixed (Mostly Men).

TWELVE CARVER

12 Carver St.

Men.

Northwood Women's Group, G. Ball, Box

273, RFD 1, Manchester 03104

NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force,

4 Valentine Hill Rd., Durham 02834

VERMONT

(Area Code 802)

Counseling-Support for Gay Women, c/o Susan Katz, South VT Women's Health Center, 187 N. Main St., Rutland, VT 05701

775-1518

Gay Student Union, Univ. of VT, Burlington 05401, M-F, 7-9 pm

658-4173

Women's Center, 182 Main St., Burlington 863-1236

NEW YORK (CITY) (Area Code 212)

Ass'n of Gay Social Workers, c/o Ron Ginsberg, 345 W. 21st St., apt. 1-A

234-8683

Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 W. 14th St. 10014

242-6616

Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U. 10027

calendar

22 mon

Boston — Gay Youth Program meets at 6:30 at the Gay Men's Centre, 718 Beacon St. near Kenmore Sq. Tonight features 2 speakers from the Homophile Community Health Service.

23 tue

Rockland, ME — Kay Gardner concert at Opera House, 8pm, \$4.

Boston — Third world gays and friends meet at GMC, 718 Beacon St., 7:30pm, discussion.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Bilitis get-together for older women at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., 7:30pm.

25 thur

Boston — Volunteers wanted to help lay-out Gay Community News, afternoon proofreading, evening paste-up, experience helpful but not necessary, stop by 22 Bromfield St.



26 fri

Boston — Am Tikva service and meeting, discussion of anti-semitism, at Frost Lounge, Ell Center, Northeastern Univ., info call 524-1890.

Boston — Volunteers wanted to help mail Gay Community News to its subscribers; spend a few hours with gay-hearted souls, 6-9pm, 22 Bromfield St.

27 sat

Boston — FREE syphilis blood testing at Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., 11am-3pm, 267-7573.

NYC — Dance at West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave. near 14th St., 9pm, \$2 donation, free drinks first hour.

28 sun

Boston — Swimming sponsored by Gay Recreational Activities Committee at Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., 2-4pm.

Bath, ME — Maine Gay Men meeting, rap, workshops, pot-luck meal, evening social, for details write MGM, Box 303, Whitefield, ME 04362 or call (207) 775-1597.

29 mon

Boston — Benefit for Gay Legislation at House Restaurant's Delivery Entrance, 12 Wilton St., Allston, 9pm-1am.

Boston — Haircutting benefit for Gay Community News at Salon de Jon, 80 Charles St., 4-8pm, with each \$12 cut you receive a free plant from Greenleaf Florist, refreshments, info call 742-0210.

30 tue

Cambridge, MA — DOB women's discussion, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., 7:30pm, refreshments.

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